

**To: Local Child Support Agencies**  
**Subject: Passport Denial Threshold**  
**Date: September 14, 2006**

**Changes in federal law affecting passports:**

**On October 1, 2006, the passport denial threshold will be lowered to \$2,500.**

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) was signed by the President on February 8, 2006. One provision of the DRA amends Section 652(k) of Title 42 of the U.S. Code to reduce the child support arrearage amount that triggers a passport denial from \$5000 to \$2500, effective October 1, 2006.

**On January 8, 2007, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative will become effective for air and sea travel.**

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative will require that all travelers to or from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda have a passport or other designated secure document to enter or re-enter the United States at airports and seaports, effective January 8, 2007. The Initiative will affect all U.S. citizens traveling within the western hemisphere, and will also affect certain foreign nationals who currently are not required to present a passport to travel to the U.S., namely most Canadian citizens, citizens of Bermuda, and Mexican citizens.